

	<b>INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE MANUAL</b>	
	<b>Chapter 10:</b> Adoption/Permanency	<b>Effective Date:</b> August 1, 2008
	<b>Section 4:</b> Resource Parent's Role in Preparing the Child for Adoption	<b>Version:</b> 1

## POLICY

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will partner with the resource parent(s) to help prepare a child for the adoption process.

DCS will communicate with and include the resource parent(s) in the planning and implementation of the adoptive placement process.

DCS will support the resource parent(s)' decision regarding their pursuit of adoption, if DCS agrees that it is in the best interest of the child.

### Code References

N/A

## PROCEDURE

The Family Case Manager (FCM) will:

1. Discuss with the resource parent(s) if they wish to pursue adoption of the child;
2. Include the resource parent(s) in the planning and implementation of the adoptive placement process, regardless if they wish to pursue adoption or not;
3. Assist the resource parent(s) in explaining the decision to the child in a manner that is appropriate based on the child's age and developmental level;
4. Utilize the Child and Family Team (CFT) Meeting or Case Plan Conference when appropriate; and
5. Seek a recommendation from the child's therapist, if applicable, regarding the appropriate time and setting to discuss with the child the resource parent(s) decision regarding adoption of the child.

If the resource parent is not pursuing adoption of the child, the FCM will:

1. Assist the resource parent(s) in encouraging the child to accept the decision;
2. Allow the resource parent(s) to express his or her feelings relating to the child's new placement;
3. Prepare the resource parent(s) for possible changes in behavior in the child prior to the adoption placement; and
4. Help the child prepare a [Lifebook](#).

The Supervisor will assist the FCM and provide input and recommendations whenever necessary.

<b>PRACTICE GUIDANCE</b>
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N/A

<b>FORMS AND TOOLS</b>
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[Lifebook](#) – Available in Hard Copy

<b>RELATED INFORMATION</b>
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N/A